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# DOUBLE DRAGON™



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**A**IDED BY POLICEWOMAN **MARIAN STEELE**, **JIMMY** AND **BILLY LEE** WERE FORCED TO BATTLE THE SOURCE OF THEIR FORMIDABLE POWERS: AN ANCIENT DRAGON STATUE INADVERTENTLY BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE VILLAINOUS **NIGHTFALL**.

**W**ITH THE AID OF **STAN**, A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER WHO CLAIMED TO BE THEIR FATHER, THE DOUBLE DRAGON DESTROYED THE STATUE AND RECLAIMED THE POWER WHICH WAS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT.

**H**OWEVER, DURING THE MELEE, THE WALLS OF OLIGOPOLIS'S MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON CAME TUMBLING DOWN...

...WHICH LEAVES OUR HEROES WITH MORE THAN A LITTLE MOPPING UP TO DO!

## HOUR OF THE DRAGON!

**TOM BREYDOORT & MIKE KANTEROWICH** - DOUBLE WRITERS • **SAL VELLUTO** - PENCILER • **BRAD VANCATA** - INKS • **KEVIN TINSLEY** - COLORS • **PAT BROUSSEAU** - LETTERS • **EVAN SKOLNICK** - MANAGING EDITOR • **FABIAN NICIEZA** - EDITOR • **TOM DEFALCO** - DRAGON IN CHIEF

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YOU'D DO BETTER, MY BROTHER, TO ~~SPARE~~ US YOUR CHILDISH WITTICISMS, AND KEEP YOUR MIND FOCUSED ON THE MATTER AT HAND...

"...AS WELL AS ON THE WELFARE OF OUR ELDERLY ALLY!"

OW!!

YOU NEED A HAND, STAN?

THWAK

THOK

GUESS NOT.

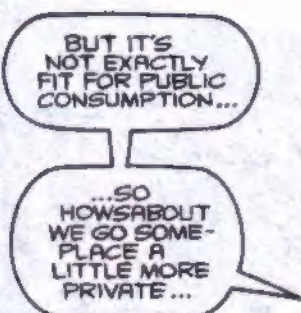
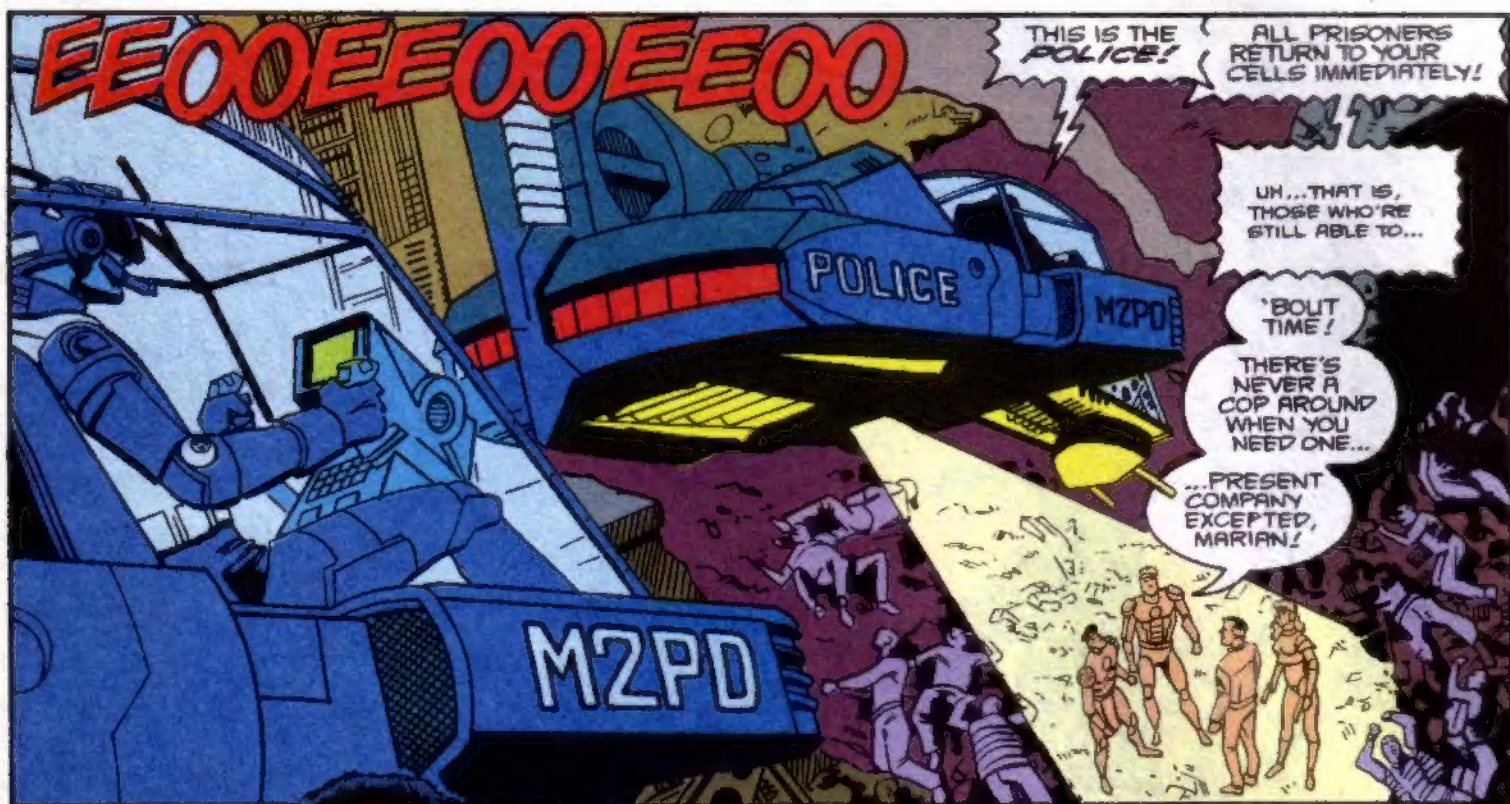
IN FACT...

I DON'T THINK THE OLD GUY NEEDS US AT ALL, JIM!

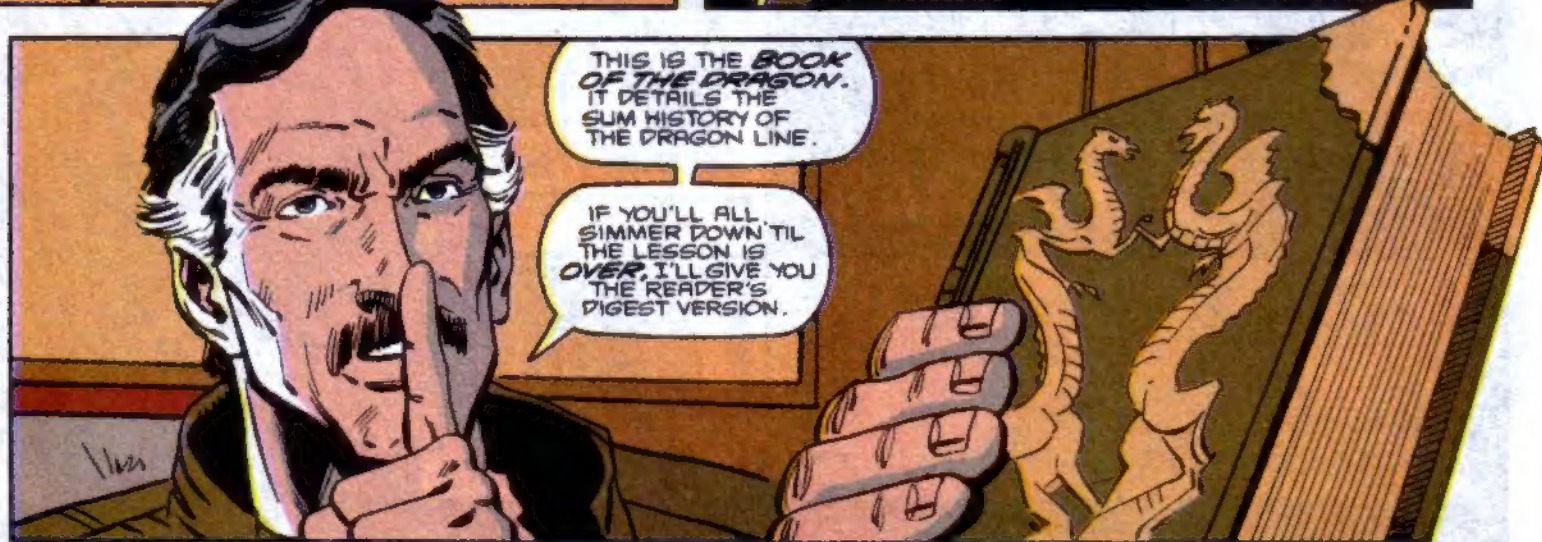
IT WOULD SEEM NOT!

SSHWAK











LEGEND TELLS US THAT, IN THE BEGINNING, THERE CAME A TIME OF GREAT DISCORD.



CHAOS RULED THE LAND, AND CIVILIZATION FELL BEFORE THE SWEEP OF ITS SCYTHE.

"BUT THERE WAS ONE WHO DARED CROSS THE MOUNTAINS IN SEARCH OF A MEANS TO RESTORE THE DELICATE BALANCE TWIXT ORDER AND CHAOS...



"...HIS NAME WAS YAN.

"DURING HIS TRAVELS, YAN CHANCED ACROSS ONE OF THE GREAT DRAGONS WHICH MADE THE FAR HILLS THEIR HOME.



"ENRAGED BY YAN'S TRESPASS, THE DRAGON ATTACKED.

"A FIERCE BATTLE ENSUED.

"'BEGONE, LITTLE DUST MOTE,' SPAKE THE DRAGON, 'FOR THOUGH I AM THE GUARDIAN OF A GREAT POWER...

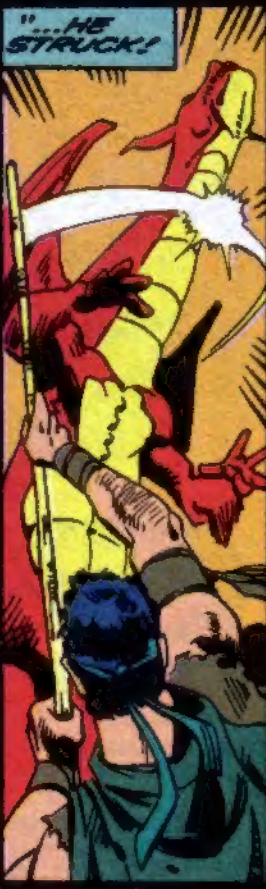


"...ONLY ONE OF PERFECT COURAGE AND HONOR IS TO WIELD IT!"

"THOUGH SMALL IN STATURE, YAN FOUGHT WITH GREAT SKILL...



"...AND, WHEN AT LAST THE DRAGON GREW CARELESS...

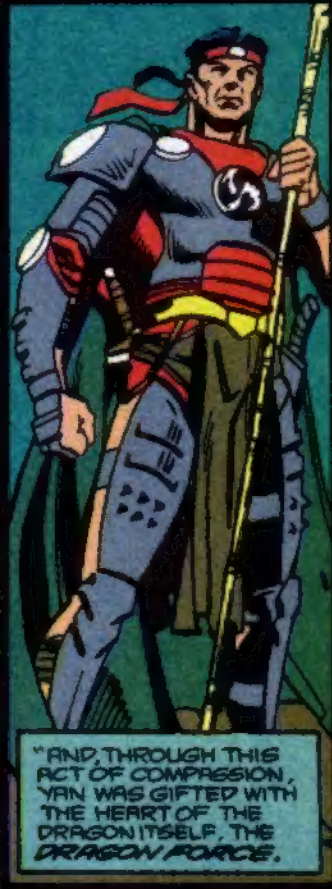


"...HE STRUCK!

"'KILL ME, THEN,' SAID THE DRAGON, 'AND BE DONE WITH YOU!'

"BUT YAN TOOK NOT THE LIFE OF HIS FALLEN FOE.

"THIS WAS THE FINAL TEST OF COURAGE... AND HONOR.



"AND, THROUGH THIS ACT OF COMPASSION, YAN WAS GIFTED WITH THE HEART OF THE DRAGON ITSELF, THE DRAGON FORCE.



"UPON RETURNING TO HIS HOMETLAND, YAN FOUND IT MUCH AS HE HAD LEFT IT-- BESET BY EVIL, AND SORELY IN NEED OF A CHAMPION."



"NOW AT ONE WITH THE HEART OF THE DRAGON, YAN BECAME THAT CHAMPION ..."



"... AND, IN THE END, HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS DROVE BACK THE FORCES OF DARKNESS."



"TOGETHER, THEY HERALDED A NEW AGE OF PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING."

"WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT STORY, STAN. IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SENSEI TAUGHT US!"



"TOO BAD HE NEVER TAUGHT YOU WHEN TO SHUT UP AND LISTEN."

"NOW, AS I WAS SAYING..."



"THE FORCE OF CHAOS COULD NEVER TRULY BE DESTROYED, MERELY BANISHED FOR A TIME."



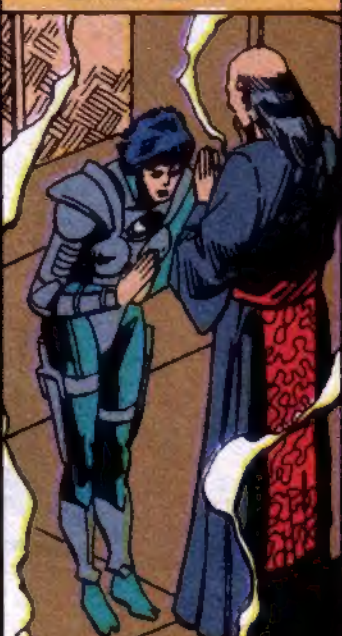
"KNOWING THIS, YAN HANDED DOWN HIS TEACHINGS, AND THE DRAGON FORCE, TO SUITABLY WORTHY SUCCESSORS."

"EVENTUALLY, THE HEART OF THE DRAGON WAS PASSED TO A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED MIRAMBA."



"YOUR MOTHER. MY WIFE."

"CH'IBN KUI, AS YOUR SENSEI WAS THEN CALLED, WAS PROUD THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAD PROVEN WORTHY TO RECEIVE THIS GREAT GIFT."



"HE HAD MUCH TO BE PROUD OF."



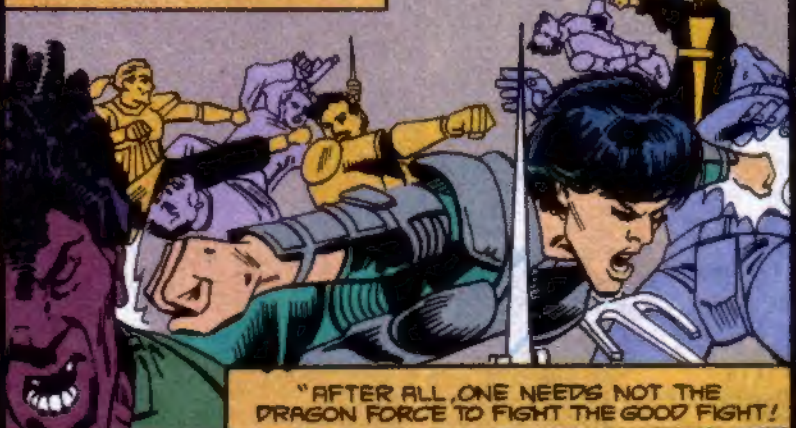
"SHORTLY THEREAFTER, MY FRIEND SHINICHI AND I SOUGHT OUT YOUR GRANDFATHER, THAT WE MIGHT LEARN THE MARTIAL ARTS.



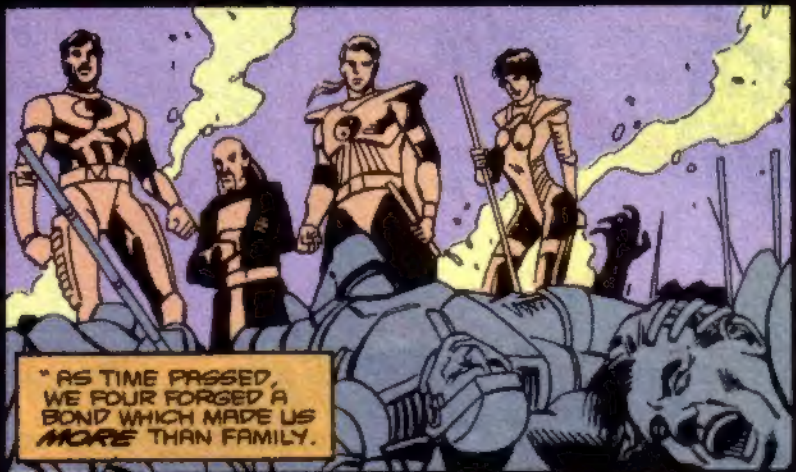
"HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO US...

"... BUT A STERN TASKMASTER. WE TRAINED LONG AND HARD ...

"... AND OFTEN FOLLOWED YOUR MOTHER INTO BATTLE.



"AFTER ALL, ONE NEEDS NOT THE DRAGON FORCE TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!



"AS TIME PASSED, WE FOUR FORGED A BOND WHICH MADE US MORE THAN FAMILY.



"THOSE WERE GOOD YEARS."



SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T LAST.

WHAT HAPPENED?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...

"Y'SEE, BOTH SHINICHI AND I WERE IN LOVE WITH MIRANDA.

"IN THE END, SHE CHOSE TO FAVOR ME.

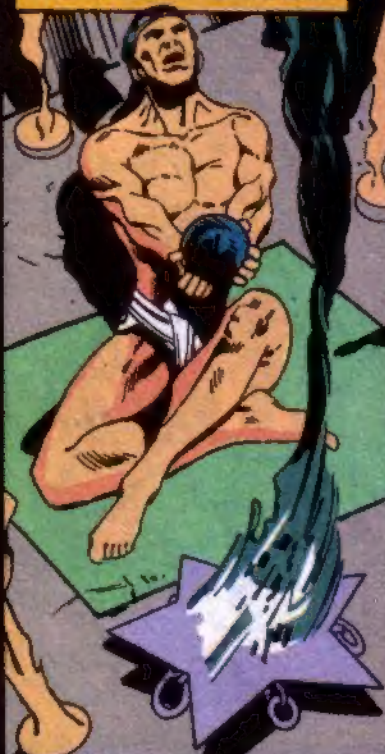
"IT WAS THEN THAT THE COUNTERFORCE--THE NEGATIVE, CHAOTIC ASPECT OF THE DRAGON'S POWER--WHISPERED SEDUCTIVELY IN SHINICHI'S EAR.



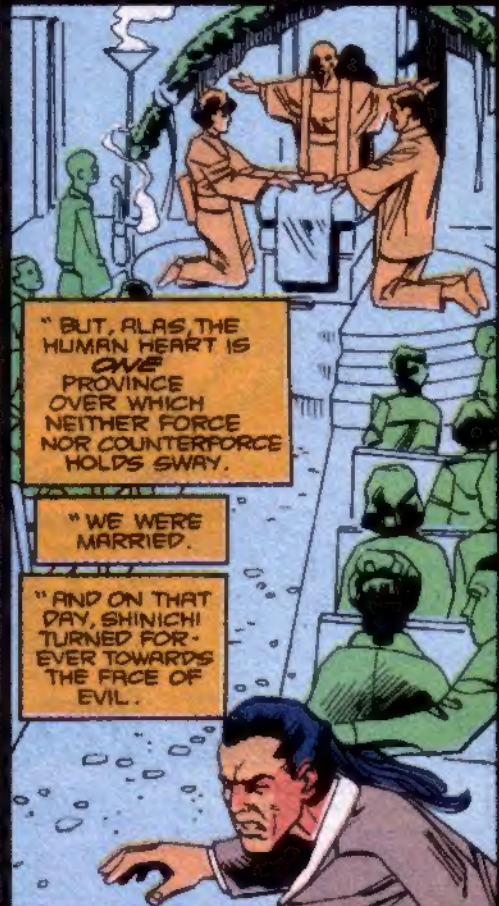


"THE COUNTERFORCE OFFERED SHINICHI GREAT POWER."

"FROM IT HE LEARNED MANY ARCAINE SECRETS..."



"...SECRETS HE HAD HOPED TO USE TO WIN MIRANDA'S HEART."

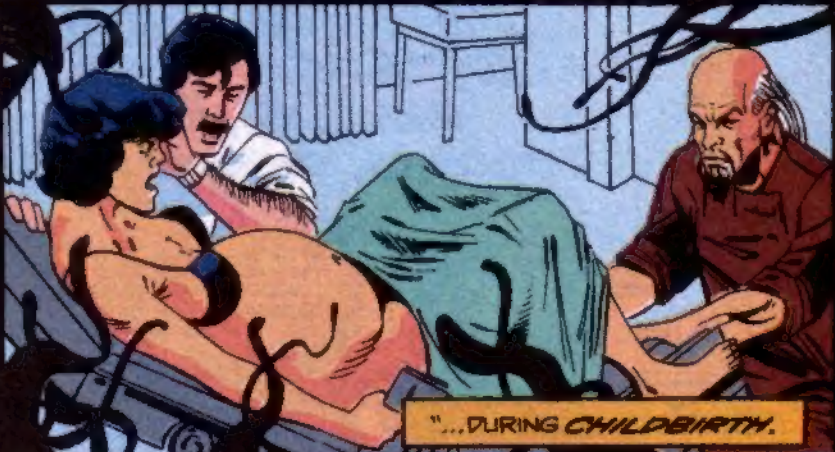


"BUT, ALAS, THE HUMAN HEART IS ONE PROVINCE OVER WHICH NEITHER FORCE NOR COUNTERFORCE HOLDS SWAY."

"WE WERE MARRIED."

"AND ON THAT DAY, SHINICHI TURNED FOREVER TOWARDS THE FACE OF EVIL."

"CAREFULLY HUSBANDING HIS GROWING POWER OVER THE FOLLOWING YEAR, MY FORMER FRIEND PLANNED TO STEAL THE DRAGON'S HEART FROM YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS MOST VULNERABLE..."



"...DURING CHILD BIRTH."

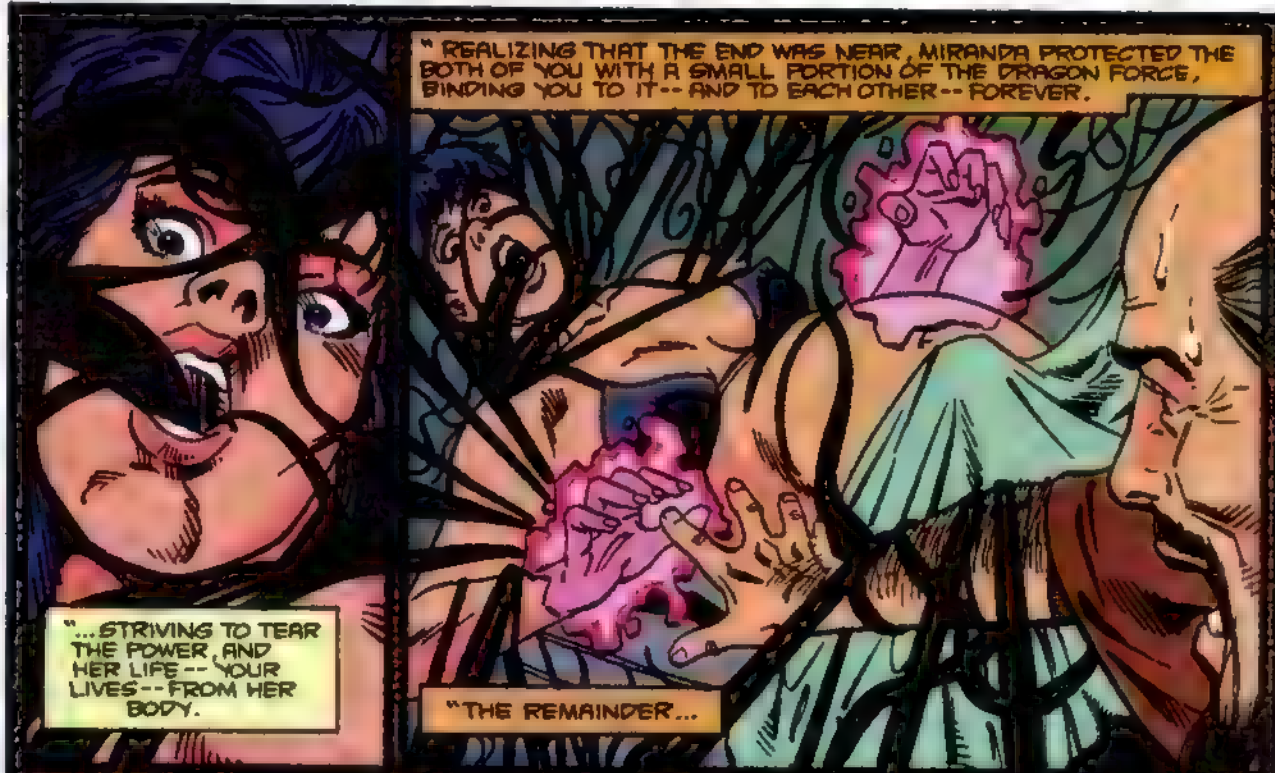


"YOU CAN IMAGINE MY HORROR AS EBON TENTACLES OF PURE EVIL REACHED OUT FOR MY WIFE..."

"...WRITHING PURPOSEFULLY..."

"...MALICIOUSLY..."

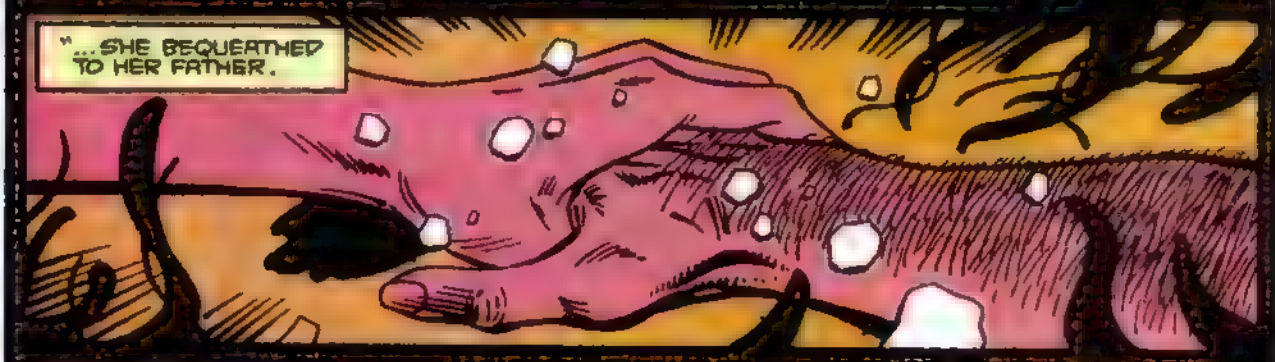




"REALIZING THAT THE END WAS NEAR, MIRANDA PROTECTED THE BOTH OF YOU WITH A SMALL PORTION OF THE DRAGON FORCE, BINDING YOU TO IT-- AND TO EACH OTHER-- FOREVER.

"...STRIVING TO TEAR THE POWER AND HER LIFE-- YOUR LIVES-- FROM HER BODY.

"THE REMAINDER..."



"...SHE BEQUEATHED TO HER FATHER.



"SHE DIED IN MY ARMS..."

"...BUT NOT BEFORE GIVING BIRTH TO HEALTHY TWIN SONS..."

"...BILLY AND JIMMY LEE."



"SENSEI SPOKE BRIEFLY TO ME OF A LEGEND FROM THE TIME OF YIN-- OF THE TWO WHO ARE ONE, TOUCHED BY YIN AND YANG, WHO SHALL EMBODY EACH, YET ~~FORM~~ ~~SCHEM~~ THE WHOLE.



"THEN THE TIME FOR TALK WAS OVER..."

"AND THE TIME OF RETRIBUTION WAS AT HAND!"





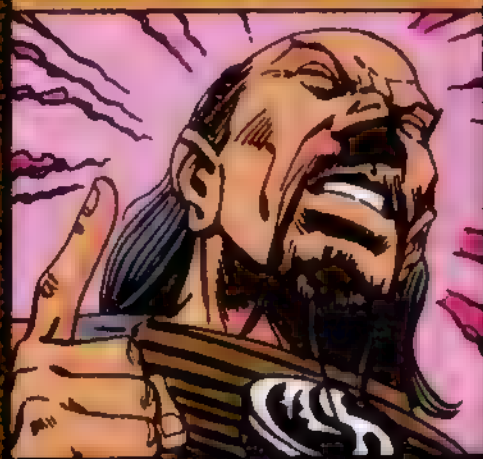
"VENGEANCE IS A DANGEROUS PATH-- ONE YOUR GRANDFATHER HAD HOPED TO WALK ALONE."



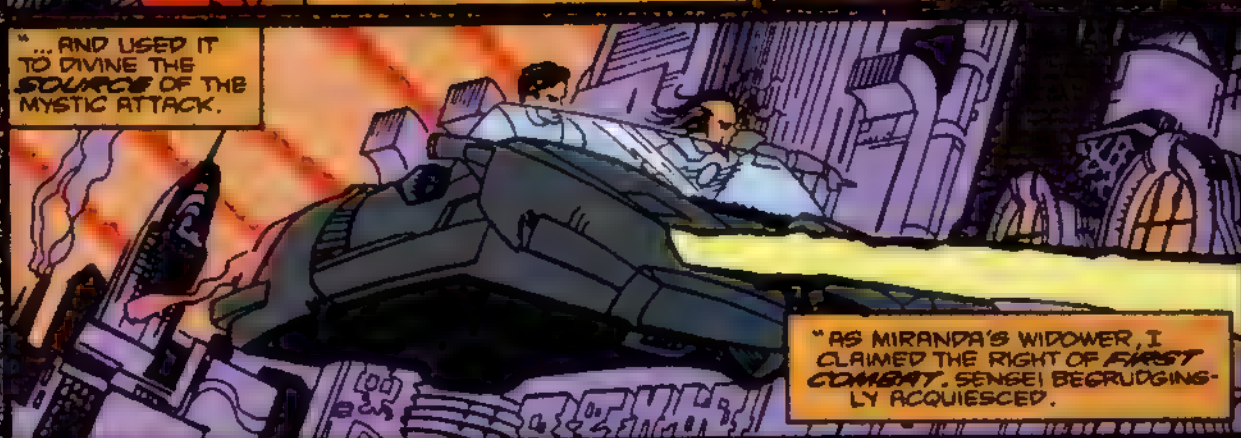
"THING WAS, I WOULDN'T LET HIM."

"MIRANDA MAY HAVE BEEN HIS DAUGHTER, BUT SHE WAS ALSO MY BELOVED WIFE."

"UNABLE TO DISSUADE ME, SENSEI SUMMONED UP THE DRAGON FORCE..."

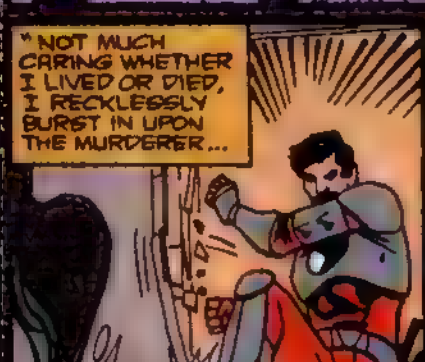


"...AND USED IT TO DIVINE THE SOURCE OF THE MYSTIC ATTACK."

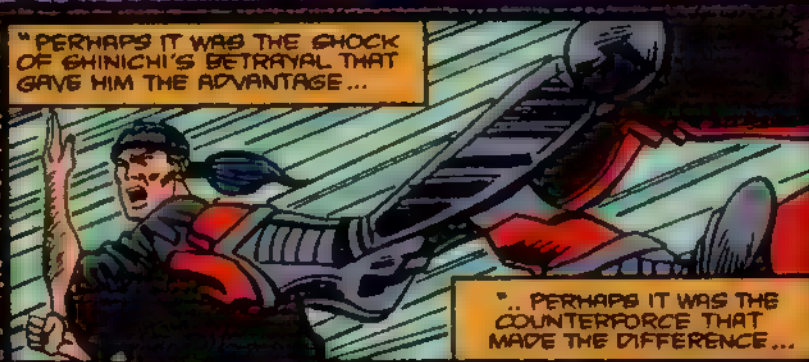


"AS MIRANDA'S WIDOWER, I CLAIMED THE RIGHT OF FIRST COMBAT. SENSEI BEGRUDGINGLY ACQUIRED."

"NOT MUCH CARING WHETHER I LIVED OR DIED, I RECKLESSLY BURST IN UPON THE MURDERER..."



"PERHAPS IT WAS THE SHOCK OF SHINICHI'S BETRAYAL THAT GAVE HIM THE ADVANTAGE..."



"...PERHAPS IT WAS THE COUNTERFORCE THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE..."

"...OR MAYBE HE WAS JUST BETTER THAN I WAS."



"EITHER WAY, MY TAIL HAD BEEN KICKED SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDAY BY THE TIME SENSEI SAW FIT TO INTERVENE."



"...ONLY TO BEHOLD THE FACE OF MY DEMAND."

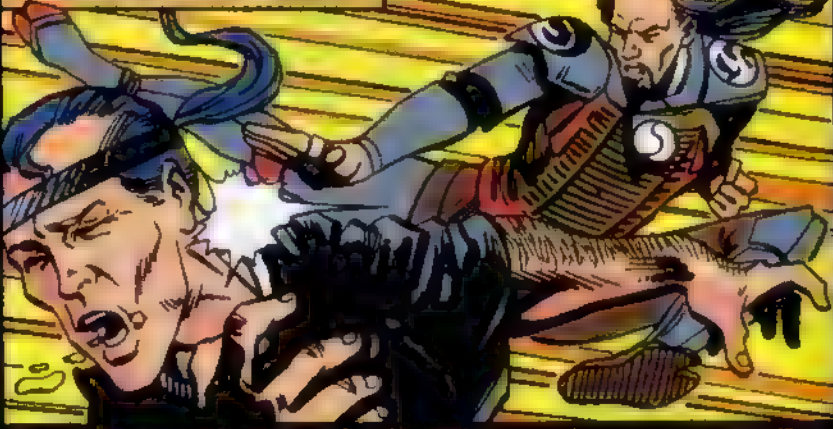
"EMBOLDENED BY HIS VICTORY OVER ME, SHINICHI TURNED TO FACE HIS FORMER MASTER."



"MADDENED BY THE POWER WHICH HAD CORRUPTED HIM, MY FORMER FRIEND THOUGHT TO MAKE QUICK WORK OF THE OLD MAN."



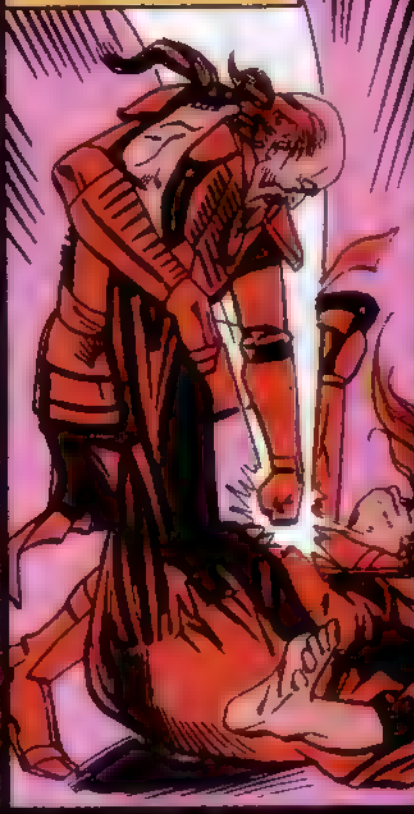
"BUT SENSEI NOW WIELDED THE DRAGON FORCE..."



"...AND HIS SOUL WAS DRIVEN BY A NEED FOR VENGEANCE..."



"...THAT WOULD NOT BE DENIED!"

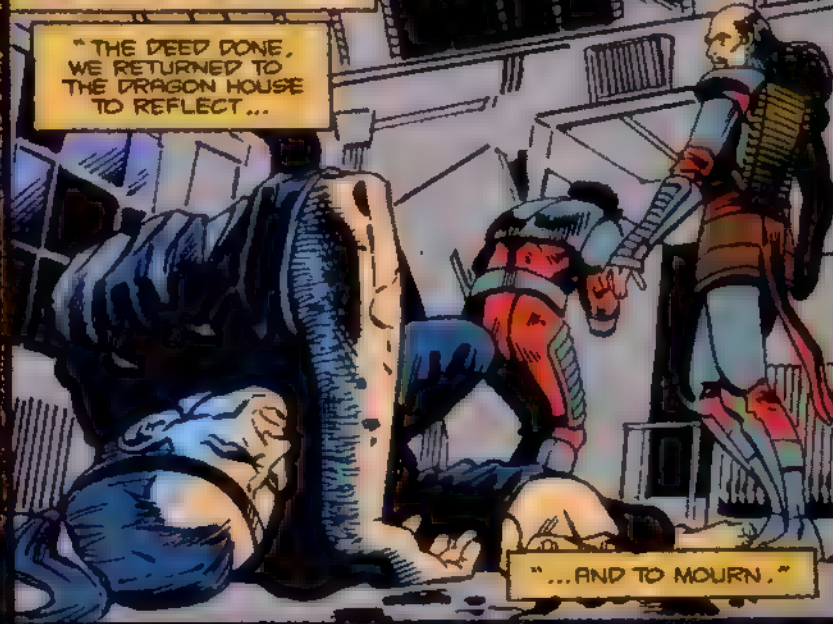


"IN FAILING TO ACT WITH THE COMPASSION OF YAN, SENSEI HAD GIVEN HIMSELF OVER TO THE DARK FORCE..."



"...IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT."

"THE DEED DONE, WE RETURNED TO THE DRAGON HOUSE TO REFLECT..."



"...AND TO MOURN."



"DAYS LATER, WE MET AGAIN AT MIRANDA'S GRAVE."

"SENSEI WAS GREATLY TROUBLED BY HIS ACTIONS, AND FELT UNWORTHY TO CARRY THE HEART OF THE DRAGON."

MIRANDA

"HE OFFERED IT TO ME."

"BUT MY SIN WAS EASILY AS GREAT. THE DRAGON FORCE HAD, HOWEVER INDIRECTLY, COST ME EVERYTHING I HELD DEAR. I WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH IT."

"I WANTED ONLY TO FORGET."

"SENSEI SMILED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS. 'SOMETIMES,' HE SAID, 'IT IS BETTER TO REMEMBER.'"

"WITH SHAME IN HIS HEART, CH'EN KUAI RENOUNCED HIS NOBLE LINEAGE."

"HE WOULD BE KNOWN MERELY AS SENSEI FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS."

"THEN, AS HIS FINAL ACT OF CUSTODIAN OF THE DRAGON FORCE, HE RAISED FROM THE EARTH ITSELF A STATUE OF STONE ..."

"HE ASKED ME TO REMAIN LONG ENOUGH TO WITNESS HIS PENANCE."

"...CAST IN THE IMAGE OF THE DRAGON WHO HAD GRANTED THE POWER TO YAN LONG AGO."

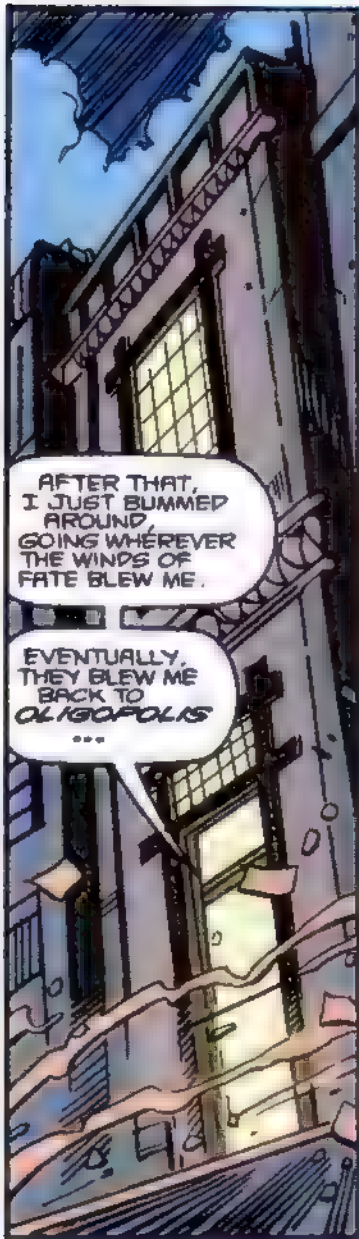
"HE PLACED THE DRAGON FORCE WITHIN THE SACRED STATUE ..."

"...TO BE HELD THERE IN TRUST UNTIL ITS RIGHTFUL HEIRS WERE READY TO RECEIVE IT."

"AS FOR ME, I HIT THE ROAD, LEAVING THE BOTH OF YOU IN SENSEI'S CARE ..."

"...TAKING ONLY THIS BOOK AS A REMINDER OF TIMES BOTH GOOD AND BAD."





AFTER THAT, I JUST BUMMED AROUND, GOING WHEREVER THE WINDS OF FATE BLEW ME.

EVENTUALLY, THEY BLEW ME BACK TO OLIGOPOLIS ...



THE REST YOU ALREADY KNOW.

YOU SPIN A GOOD YARN, OLD TIMER, BUT THERE'RE STILL A FEW THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NOT UNUSUAL.

I, TOO, HAVE QUESTIONS.



QUESTIONS ARE THE FIRST SYMPTOM OF A HEALTHY MIND AT WORK.

SENSEI TAUGHT YOU KIDS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.

BUT YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.



DO NOT CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

IF YOU LEFT TO FORGET US, WHY COME BACK NOW?

LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER ONCE SAID, "SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO REMEMBER."

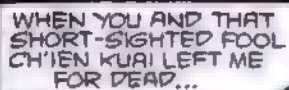


BESIDES, THINGS WEREN'T QUITE AS DONE WITH AS WE'D THOUGHT.

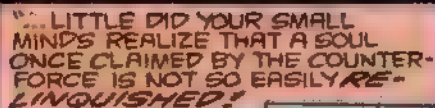
HOW TRUE, O ONCE AND FORMER FRIEND...

...TRUER THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!

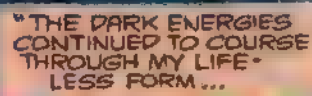




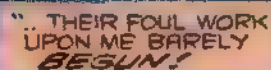
WHEN YOU AND THAT  
SHORT-SIGHTED FOOL  
CH'EN KUAI LEFT ME  
FOR DEAD...



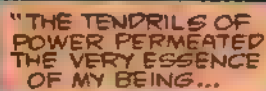
"...LITTLE DID YOUR SMALL  
MINDS REALIZE THAT A SOUL  
ONCE CLAIMED BY THE COUNTER-  
FORCE IS NOT SO EASILY RE-  
LINQUISHED!"



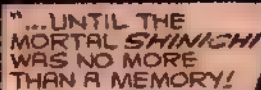
"THE DARK ENERGIES  
CONTINUED TO COURSE  
THROUGH MY LIFE-  
LESS FORM..."



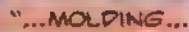
"...THEIR FOUL WORK  
UPON ME BARELY  
BEGUN!"



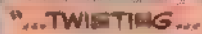
"THE TENDRILS OF  
POWER PERMEATED  
THE VERY ESSENCE  
OF MY BEING..."



"...UNTIL THE  
MORTAL *SHINIGHI*  
WAS NO MORE  
THAN A MEMORY!"



"...MOLDING..."



"...TWISTING..."



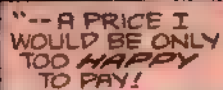
"...CHANGING..."



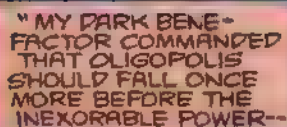
"HENCEFORTH  
AND FOREVER,  
I CAME TO BE  
*NIGHTFALL!*"



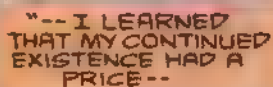
"AS I COMMUNED  
ONCE MORE WITH  
THE FLAMES OF  
EVIL--"



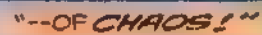
"-- A PRICE I  
WOULD BE ONLY  
TOO *HAPPY*  
TO PAY!"



"MY DARK BENE-  
FACTOR COMMANDED  
THAT OLIGOPOLIS  
SHOULD FALL ONCE  
MORE BEFORE THE  
INEXORABLE POWER--"



"-- I LEARNED  
THAT MY CONTINUED  
EXISTENCE HAD A  
PRICE--"



"--OF *CHAOS!*"





NOW THAT MY FORMER FRIEND HAS RETURNED, MY ASCENSION TO THE THRONE OF CHAOS MAY BEGIN IN **EARNEST!**

I MUST PREPARE A SUITABLE WELCOME.

**UNDERTAKER! OVERTHROW! ATTEND ME!**

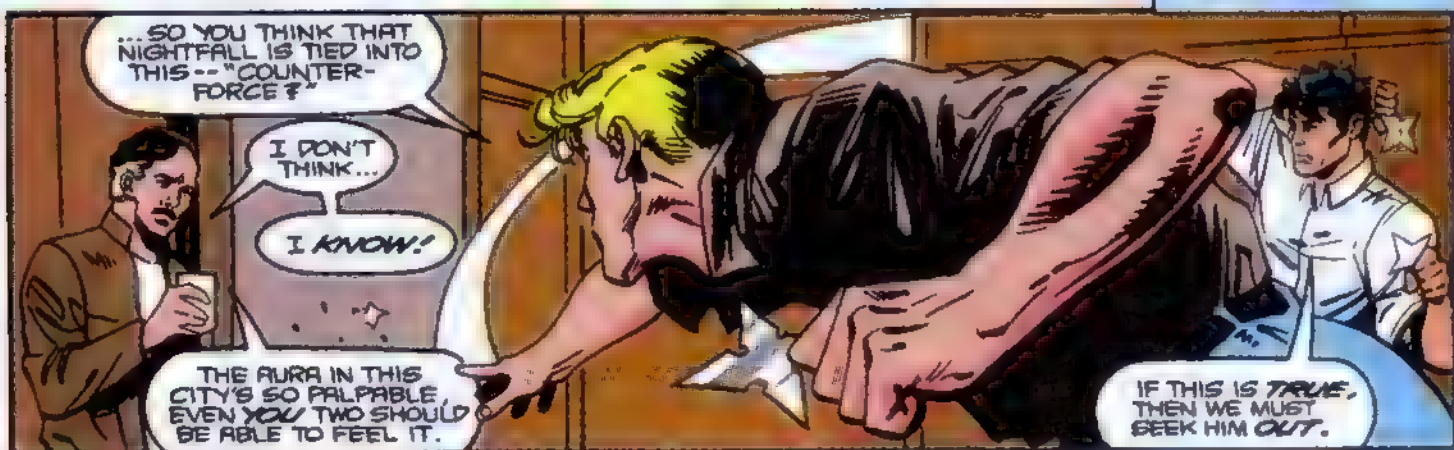


GO TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DRAGONS. LEAD MY SHADOW WARRIORS AGAINST THE HATED HOUSE OF LEE--

--WHILE I MAKE MY FINAL PREPARATIONS.

"CHAOS WILL RULE THIS NIGHT..."

"...AND THE BACK OF THE DRAGON SHALL BE FOREVER BROKEN!"



...SO YOU THINK THAT NIGHTFALL IS TIED INTO THIS -- "COUNTER-FORCE"?

I DON'T THINK...

I KNOW!

THE AURA IN THIS CITY'S SO PALPABLE, EVEN YOU TWO SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL IT.

IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN WE MUST SEEK HIM OUT.



NOT JUST YET.

YOU'LL NEED MORE INSTRUCTION BEFORE YOU'RE READY TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH HIM!

BELIEVE ME, I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE!

SO WE JUST SIT AROUND AND WAIT?

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, BILLY.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, HE AND HIS FORCES WILL PROBABLY FIND US!



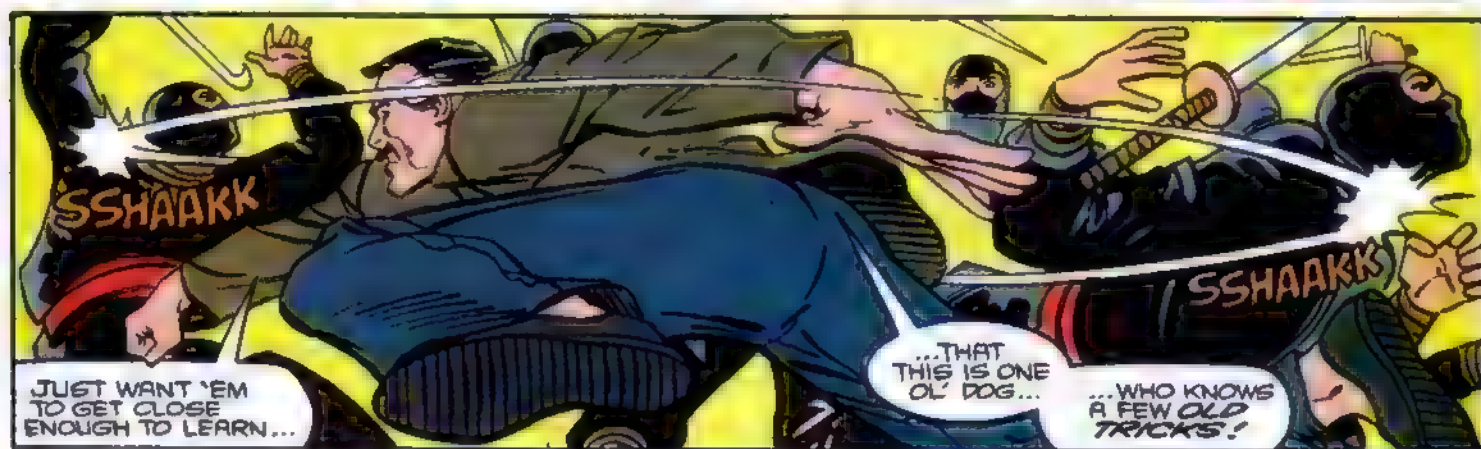
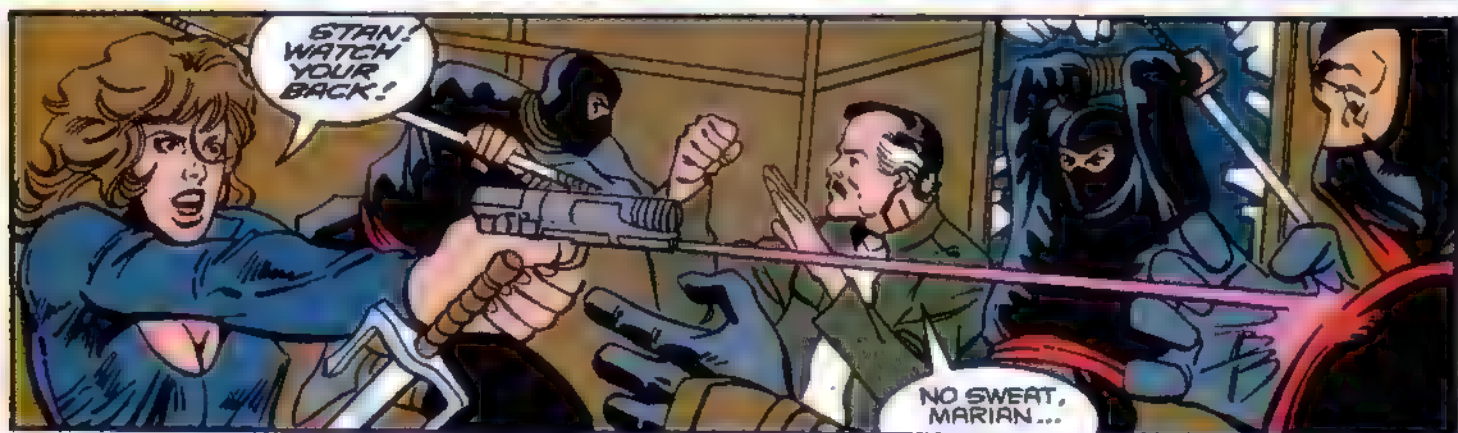
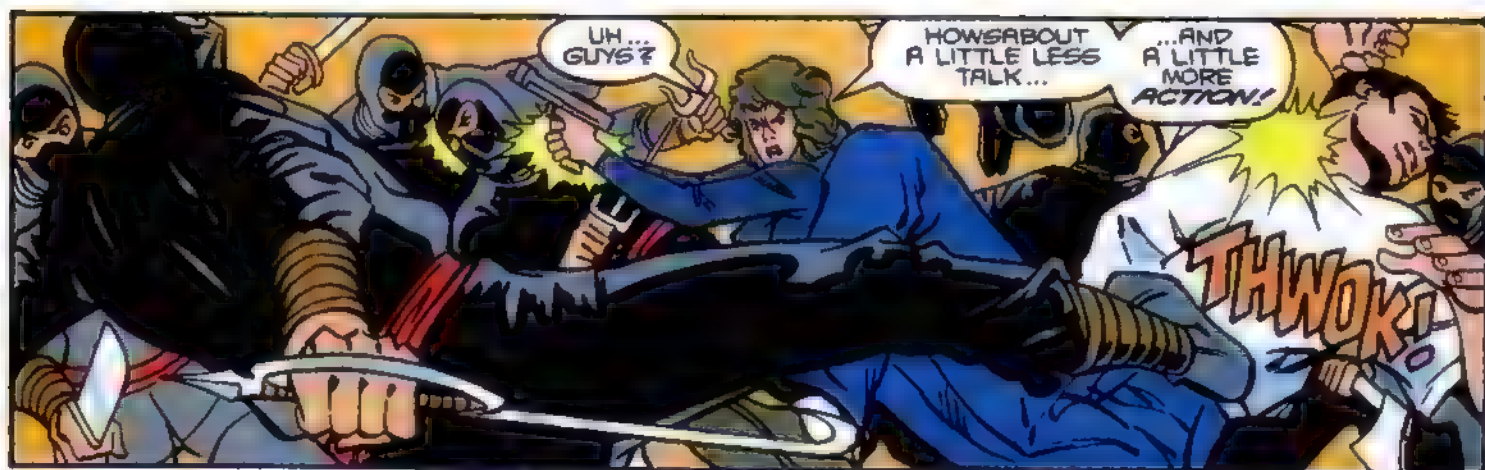
BY THE DRAGON!

**SCRAPE!**

I'LL GRANT YOU THIS MUCH, STAN...

...WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT!













...BUT ON A DAY OF MY CHOOSING!

FOOL! DO YOU NOT REALIZE THAT THE WAR IS ALREADY OVER?

THOK!



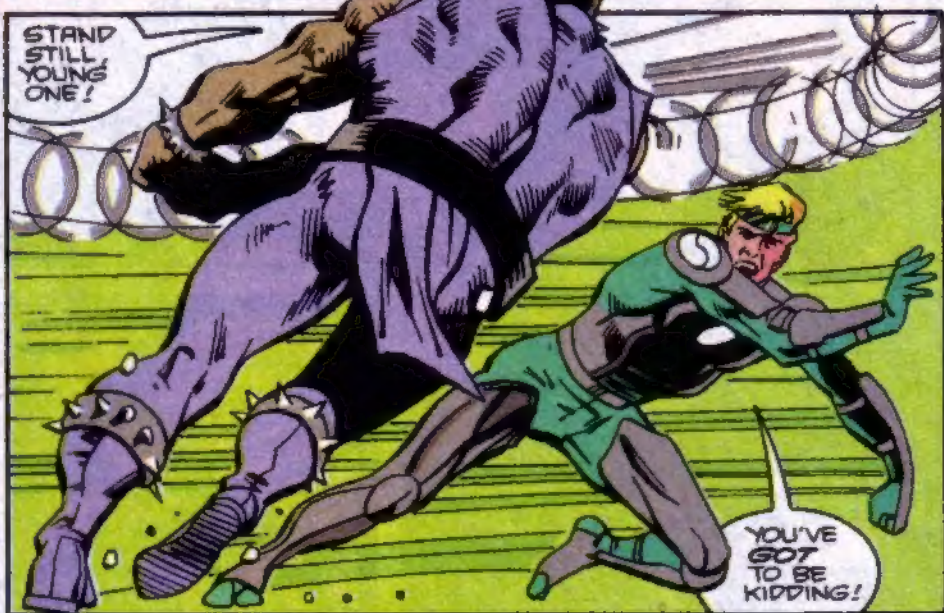
ONLY THIS BATTLE REMAINS.



AND IT IS AS GOOD...

...AS DONE!

PERHAPS, BUT THE OUTCOME MAY NOT BE AS YOU THINK!



STAND STILL YOUNG ONE!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

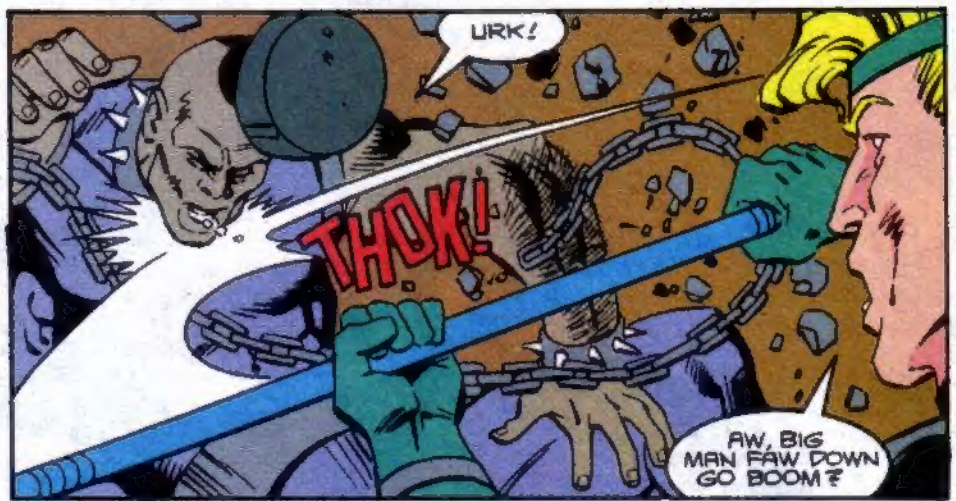


AS YOU WILL, PREPARE TO DIE THAT WE MIGHT LEARN IF DRAGONS BLEED!

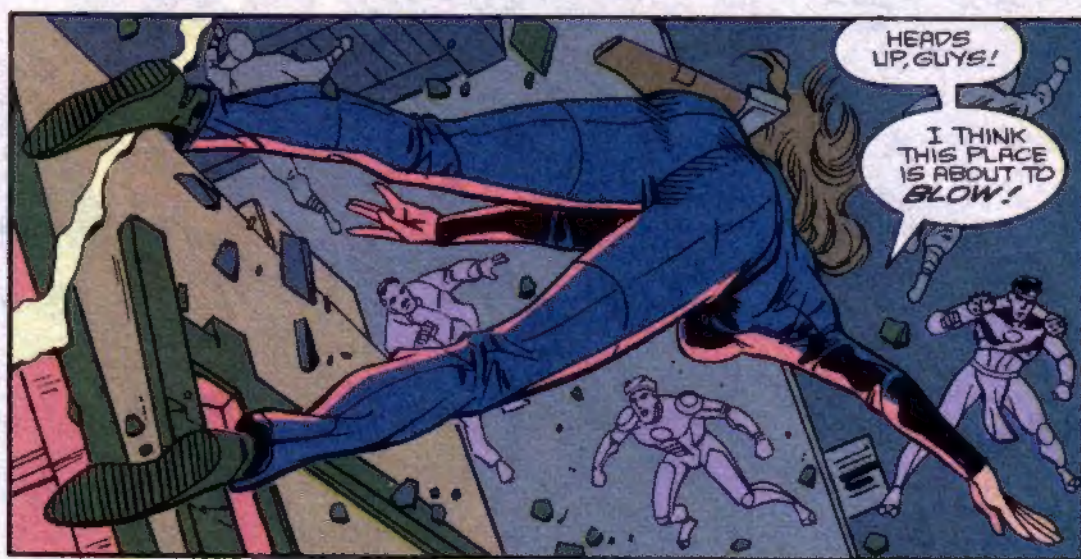
MAYBE LATER, THANKS.

FIRST...













BUT OUR  
FAMILY  
REUNION IS  
NOT YET  
COMPLETE.

THERE IS  
ONE FINAL  
MEMBER LEFT  
UNACCOUNTED  
FOR!

FOR, ALTHOUGH,  
THE COUNTERFORCE  
HOLDS NO SWAY  
OVER THE  
HEART--

--THE  
SOUL IS  
ANOTHER  
MATTER  
ENTIRELY!

IS THAT NOT  
SO, MY LOVELY  
MIRANDA?

NEXT: **LAST OF  
THE DRAGONS!**